

18A:71-76.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:71-76:1

(Vietnam
veterans--certain--eligible
for tuition
assistance)

LAWS OF: 1988

CHAPTER: 98

Bill No: A705

Sponsor(s): Mazur

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: **Assembly:** Veterans Affairs & Defense

Senate: Education

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: **Assembly:** May 9, 1988

Senate: June 27, 1988

Date of Approval: August 5, 1988

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: **Assembly:** Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: Yes

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

ASSEMBLY, No. 705
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1988 SESSION

By Assemblyman MAZUR

1 **AN ACT** concerning scholarships for Veterans of the Vietnam
conflict and amending P.L. 1985, c. 114.

3

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
5 *State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L. 1985, c. 114 (C. 18A:71-76.1) is amended
7 to read as follows:

1. As used in this act:

9 "Vietnam veteran" means a resident of this State who:

a. Served in the Armed Forces of the United States in
11 Southeast Asia in the Vietnam conflict and received a Vietnam
Service Ribbon or an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal;

13 b. Was honorably discharged or generally discharged under
honorable conditions; and

15 c. Has been domiciled in New Jersey at the time of the
effective date of this act for a period of not less than two
17 consecutive years, exclusive of any time spent on active duty.

(cf: P.L. 1985, c. 114, s. 1)

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

VETERANS

23

Higher Education

25 **Makes Vietnam veterans who received an Armed Forces
Expeditionary Medal eligible for tuition assistance.**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

ASSEMBLY, No. 705

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1988 SESSION

By Assemblyman MAZUR

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effective date of this act for a period of not less than two
17 consecutive years, exclusive of any time spent on active duty.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

21 STATEMENT

23 This bill provides that Vietnam Veterans who have received
an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal will be eligible for
25 scholarships under the Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program.

This program, established in 1985 (P.L. 1985, c. 114) provides
27 tuition assistance to vietnam Veterans attending public colleges
in New Jersey. To be eligible, the veteran would have to have
29 received a Vietnam Service Ribbon. Since this medal was not
officially issued until July 1985, certain Vietnam veterans would
31 not be able to receive tuition assistance.

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1

VETERANS
Higher Education

3

5 Makes Vietnam Veterans who received an Armed Forces
Expeditionary Medal eligible for tuition assistance.

ASSEMBLY VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 705

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 18, 1988

The Assembly Veterans' Affairs and Defense Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 705.

This bill provides that Vietnam veterans who have received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal will be eligible for scholarships under the Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program.

This program, established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.114, provides tuition assistance to Vietnam veterans attending public colleges in New Jersey. To be eligible, the veteran would have to have received a Vietnam Service Ribbon. Since this medal was not officially issued until October 1, 1965, certain Vietnam veterans would not be able to receive the scholarships unless the statute is amended to permit recipients of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to be eligible for those scholarships as well.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1988 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 705

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 1988

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 705 without committee amendments.

This bill provides that Vietnam veterans who have received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal will be eligible for scholarships under the Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program.

This program, established pursuant to P.L. 1985, c. 114, provides tuition assistance to Vietnam veterans pursuing an initial undergraduate degree at a New Jersey institution of higher education. The amount of the award is determined by the Student Assistance Board, but may not exceed the actual cost of tuition at the college of attendance, and, at independent colleges, may not exceed the amount of tuition at Rutgers University. In addition, no award will be granted unless the veteran has applied for all other available State or federal student financial aid.

To be eligible, the veteran must have been domiciled in New Jersey as of April 9, 1985 and must have resided in the State for two consecutive years prior to that date, must have served in Southeast Asia and been honorably discharged and would have to have received a Vietnam Service Ribbon. Under statute (N.J.S.A. 38:18A-1) the Vietnam War began on December 31, 1960. However, the Vietnam Service Ribbon was not officially issued until October 1, 1965. Therefore, certain Vietnam veterans would not be able to receive the scholarships unless the statute is amended to permit recipients of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to be eligible for those scholarships as well.

Since the program's inception in 1985, approximately 30 full-time and 100 part-time students have received tuition assistance awards. The average annual expenditure for the program has been \$100,000.

FISCAL NOTE TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 705
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: June 23, 1988

This bill provides that Vietnam veterans who have received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal will be eligible for scholarships under the Vietnam Veterans Tuition Aid Program. This program, established pursuant to P.L. 1985, c. 114, provides tuition assistance to Vietnam veterans pursuing an initial undergraduate degree at a New Jersey institution of higher education. The amount of the award is determined by the Student Assistance Board, but may not exceed the actual cost of tuition at the college of attendance, and, at independent colleges, may not exceed the amount of tuition at Rutgers University. In addition, no award will be granted unless the veteran has applied for all other available State or federal student financial aid.

To be eligible, the veteran must have been domiciled in New Jersey as of April 9, 1985 and must have resided in the State for two consecutive years prior to that date, must have served in Southeast Asia and been honorably discharged and would have to have received a Vietnam Service Ribbon. Since this service ribbon was not officially issued until October 1, 1965, certain Vietnam veterans are not eligible for the scholarship program.

Based upon an institutional survey conducted by the New Jersey Association of Veteran Program Administrators, the Department of Higher Education has estimated that 40 veterans with an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal would become eligible to receive scholarships under this bill. Given current program enrollment patterns and actual expenditures for the fall of 1987, the department estimates that the cost of the additional scholarships for FY 1989 will be \$35,000. Further, the department projects a cost of \$42,000 for FY 1990 based upon annual tuition increases and a shift of enrollment from the county colleges to the State colleges. Thereafter, expenditures will decrease as eligible veterans complete their degree requirements.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs, and notes that under the enabling legislation, eligibility for enrollment in this program expires at the end of the 1990 fiscal year.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L. 1980, c. 67.